

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification

Please substitute the enclosed Substitute Specification, marked "Clean Version," for the Specification currently on file. A "Version with Markings" showing all the changes is also enclosed herewith (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough or double brackets and added matter is shown by underlining). The Substitute Specification includes no new matter.

In the Abstract

Please substitute the following amended Abstract for the Abstract as currently pending (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining):

A vacuum heat treatment furnace comprising a furnace shell, a casing arranged in an inner side of the furnace shell, a heat insulating layer consisting of a thick plate-like alumina-silica series ceramic fiber blanket and a thin plate-like alumina series ceramic material arranged in an inside of the casing, and a heater arranged in a heating room surrounded by the heat insulating layer. A method of and apparatus for measuring a carbon concentration in an atmosphere in a treating room having a reduced pressure, wherein a carbon concentration measuring body is transferred from an external portion of a furnace shell of a heat treatment furnace into the treating room within the furnace shell, the carbon concentration measuring body is reacted with the atmosphere in the treating room for a predetermined time, the carbon concentration measuring body is gradually cooled for a predetermined time, and an amount of carbon in the carbon concentration measuring body is measured in [[the]] atmospheric pressure at [[a]] room temperature.